



Fall 2003

Gray Davis, Governor

Maria Contreras-Sweet, B, T & H Agency Secretary

Jeff Morales, Director

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

5/805 Construction Project Newsletter

WIDENING THE I-5/I-805 MERGE

The construction of the single largest freeway project in San Diego County is well underway. Aside from the crane accident last May crews have made significant progress without significantly impacting commuters. The \$145 million project is running on time and on budget.

Crews are currently placing temporary bridge supports, called falsework over Interstate 5 and I-805. This will allow crews to build a truck/local traffic bypass ramps. These bypass ramps will separate commercial truck traffic from the freeway main lanes at each merge point of both freeways. Crews will soon begin work to create an interchange on Route 5 at Carmel Mountain Road. This much needed movement will allow motorists to negotiate a freeway-to-freeway transfer at this vital interchange.

The closure of the merge last May was due to a construction crane's boom toppling onto overhead power lines. With the fast response of Caltrans, CHP, SDG&E and local media outlets motorists were alerted of the delay and were re-directed to alternate routes. Local businesses also played a large role in getting the emergency work completed timely by allowing employees to adjust their work schedules around the work. Caltrans would like to thank motorists, residents and businesses for their patience and understanding during that difficult time.



Last May a construction crane toppled on I-5 closing the lanes for several hours during the morning commute.

CONSTRUCTION NEWS

Construction crews continue to construct retaining walls throughout the entire construction corridor. The largest of these walls is over 50 feet tall and almost a mile in length. These walls will serve as the backbone to allow crews to widen the merge into its ultimate configuration.



Posted camera on overhead freeway sign on southbound I-5.

Other structures currently being built are the Los Penasquitos Creek Crossing and the Sorrento Valley Viaduct. This project is scheduled to be completed spring 2007, however northbound lanes should be open to traffic in summer 2005.

Last month Senior Resident Engineer Mohammed Khan and Construction Information Officer Marlene Davis worked with J.W. Redwood to come up with a revised construction schedule to avoid working during J.W. Redwoods Annual Open House for vendors. Crews suspended a pile driving operation in order to not disturb an event. The cost of the delay was about \$1,376. In order to minimize financial impact to the project crews worked extended hours and completed the noisy operation three days early.

DID YOU KNOW?

As part of the construction project, four Internet accessible web cameras have been installed along the corridor. The cameras serve as a tool to identify congestion choke points, stranded vehicles, pin-point accidents, chart the progression of the construction project and observe daily commute activities throughout the project. The site can be viewed at www.dot.ca.gov/dist11/d11tmc/sdmap/cameras/merge.

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www.dot.ca.gov/dist11/5-805wide/5-805wide.htm
All closures are posted on the District website at www.dot.ca.gov/dist11
click Local Road Construction/Repair Closures